

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3412

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 200

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH XT

SUBJ: SINO-WEST EUROPEAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: A PARADE OF EUROPEAN LEADERS IS EXPECTED IN PEKING IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN TALKS WITH THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER, THE FIRST IN A STREAM OF EUROPEAN VISITORS IN 1975, THE PRC LEADERSHIP HAS MOVED SLIGHTLY FROM ITS NORMAL POSITION OF WARNING WEST EUROPEANS OF THE SOVIET THREAT TO A WARNING OF THE THREAT FROM BOTH SUPERPOWERS. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SLIGHT TENDENCY TOWARD FIRMER PREDICTIONS OF THE INEVITABILITY OF WAR BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS. END SUMMARY.

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1. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL ARRIVED IN PEKING

JANUARY 3, THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ANTICIPATED VISITORS FROM EUROPE IN EARLY 1975. THE MALTESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN PEKING JANUARY 7, THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN THE SPRING AND FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS EXPECTED IN EARLY 1975. OTHER POSSIBLE VISITORS TO CHINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE INCLUDE THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND FRG OPPOSITION LEADER FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS.

2. THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER HAS NOT ONLY BEEN HOSTED BY HIS COUNTERPART, PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA, BUT MET WITH PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI IN HOSPITAL AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING. AS USUAL, THE PRC MEDIA HAS REPORTED THESE MEETINGS WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY INFORMATION ON THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. VAN DER STOEL WAS ACCORDED A BANQUET TOAST, AN IMPORTANT RITUAL FOR VIP VISITORS TO CHINA, IN WHICH CHIAO PROVIDED THE USUAL WARNING THAT EUROPE IS THE FOCUS FOR THE SUPERPOWERS' HEGEMONIC DESIGNS. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF STRESSING THE SOVIET THREAT TO WEST EUROPE, HE INDICATED THAT BOTH SUPERPOWERS ARE "STEPPING UP THE ARMS RACE AND ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR WAR". HE THEN WARNED THAT "THE PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MUST GET FULLY PREPARED AGAINST A WAR BEING LAUNCHED BY EITHER SUPERPOWER." HE CONTINUED ON TO URGE EUROPEAN UNITY AND UNITY BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD TO OPPOSE "SUPER POWER CONTROL, INTERFERENCE, OR THREAT." AS IF TO EMPHASIZE THESE WARNINGS, THE CHINESE TOOK THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON AN UNSCHEDULED TOUR OF PEKING'S AIR RAID SHELTERS THE FOLLOWING DAY.

4. A JANUARY 5 AFP REPORT QUOTING A MEMBER OF VAN DER STOEL'S ENTOURAGE CLAIMS THAT THE NECESSITY OF A STRONG AND UNITED WESTERN EUROPE WAS ALSO STRESSED BY PREMIER CHOU IN HIS MEETING.

5. THE THEMES OF SUPERPOWER CONTENTION OVER WESTERN EUROPE AND THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN UNITY HAVE LONG BEEN STANDARD PEKING RHETORIC AND WERE INCLUDED IN BANQUET TOASTS FOR THE LAST TWO EUROPEAN LEADERS VISITING PEKING (DANISH PRIME MINISTER HARLING IN OCTOBER AND MR. HEATH IN MAY). FOR MR. HEATH, THE CHINESE

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ALSO PREDICTED AN INEVITABLE WAR BUT ADDED THAT "EITHER THE SUPERPOWERS WILL FIGHT EACH OTHER OR THE PEOPLE WILL RISE IN REVOLUTION", A STANDARD CHINESE LINE. THE CHIAO BANQUET TOAST, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO LEAN SLIGHTLY MORE TO A PREDICTION OF WAR BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS AND CONTAINS THE UNUSUAL WARNING OF THE DANGER OF WAR BEING LAUNCHED BY THE U.S.

6. UNFORTUNATELY, NCNA DID NOT PROVIDE FULL TEXTS OF THE

BANQUET TOASTS BUT THE EXCERPTS SELECTED FROM CHIAO 'S TOAST
APPEAR TO BE A SLIGHT CHANGE FROM STANDARD PEKING TOASTS FOR
EUROPEAN VISITORS AND WILL BEAR WATCHING IN THE FORTHCOMING
VISITS. THUS FAR WE DETECT NO CHANGE IN PRC DOMESTIC PROPAGANDA,
WHICH CONTINUES TO HOLD UP THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUPRISE ATTACK
UPON CHINA BY THE SOVIETS AND , IN OTHER WAYS, TO INDICATE THAT
THE CURRENT THREAT COMES FROM MOSCOW, NOT WASHINGTON.
CROSS

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